



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Statement on Implementation of OSCE Commitments Related to Tolerance by Participating States**

As delivered by Ambassador Stephan M. Minikes  
to the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw  
October 12, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

No country is immune from the disease of intolerance, which comes in many forms. Yet democracy and security require -- for their very existence, their sustenance -- equality for all citizens, regardless of their race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

That is why OSCE participating States have agreed during the past year to take concrete steps to fight the evils of intolerance. The Maastricht Ministerial Decision on Tolerance and Non-Discrimination, and the Berlin and Brussels Conferences, have produced useful commitments and recommendations that will help us fight racism, xenophobia, discrimination and anti-Semitism in the coming years.

In these Decisions, participating States have agreed to forward to ODIHR information on domestic legislation on combating hate and anti-Semitic crimes, as well as statistics concerning related incidents on their territory and best practices for preventing such incidents. The success of this commitment, however, will depend on its implementation.

There is much to be done here: many OSCE participating States still do not have hate crime legislation or systems for tracking hate crimes, and nearly 20 states have yet to submit information on incidents of bias to ODIHR pursuant to ODIHR's request for that data. We must do better in providing this information to ODIHR.

We commend the work that ODIHR has undertaken so far in its new tolerance program to promote implementation of OSCE commitments.

We particularly welcome the recent hiring of an advisor on anti-Semitism issues and we look forward to the creation of several new advisory positions within the tolerance program. These positions should be part of ODIHR's permanent staffing table.

We hope that ODIHR will fill these positions with experienced experts, who are able to provide new ideas and assistance to participating States so they can fulfill their commitments related to tolerance and non-discrimination.

We also look forward to next year's Cordoba Conference, where we will hear from states about the concrete measures they have undertaken to implement the commitments stemming from this year's Conferences.

The fight against intolerance is a difficult and an ongoing one, and the United States commends the OSCE and the ODIHR for helping participating States find ways to win this never-ending battle. And we seek not only tolerance, but respect and acceptance for everyone.

Finally, I would like to invite everyone to attend a side event hosted jointly by the United States and France at 1:00 today in Meeting Room 1 to discuss best practices in education on the Holocaust.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.